MARVEL

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WOLVERINE® ORIGINS

WAY
EATON
HENNESSY
TROY

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WOLVERINE
ORIGINS

The mutant Wolverine has spent a century fighting those who would manipulate him for his unique powers—razor-sharp claws, heightened senses, and a healing factor capable of miracles. After repeated brainwashing, torture, and reprogramming, Wolverine's past was as much a mystery to him as to anyone. With those long-lost memories returned to him, Wolverine has set out on a mission to punish the conspirators who have wronged him.

Logan has finally caught up with the mysterious and powerful figure known only as Romulus, the man who has been secretly manipulating him his entire life. Logan learns that Romulus's grand scheme is for Logan and Daken—Logan's dangerously misguided son—to fight to the death, deciding who will take Romulus's place at the top of the food chain. To avoid this, Logan is determined to destroy Romulus's vast empire. But before he embarks on what may be his final journey, there's something he'd like to get off his chest…

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SAN FRANCISCO; THE TENDERLOIN:

LETTERS.

WRITTEN BY ME.

TO HER.

OLD PANTHER

I NEED TO REMEMBER.

I NEED TO--

NO MORE RUNNIN', OLD MAN.

YOU GOTTA DO THIS.

RETURN TO SENDER

CAN'T DO IT. NOT ALONE.

"KURT.

"OF COURSE. WHERE?"

"DON'T MATTER...

I'M GONNA NEED SOME HELP.

"CAN YA MEET ME SOMEWHERE?"

TIK!

"...LONG AS IT'S PRIVATE."

DAMN, ELF...HOW'D YOU--?

I CALLED IN A FAVOR.

CLIFFHOUSE

SPEAKING OF WHICH...

THERE'S SOMETHIN' I NEED TO CONFESS, KURT.

IF YA WOULD, I'D LIKE YOU TO HEAR IT.

I'M NOT A PRIEST, LOGAN...

YER A FRIEND.

THAT'S BETTER.

IT'S *BAD*, YES?

"YEAH, KURT.

"IT'S BAD."

RECKONING

PROLOGUE

THERE WAS A WOMAN...*MARIKO YASHIDA*. D'YOU REMEMBER HER?

OF COURSE. SHE...WAS TO BE YOUR *WIFE*. I REMEMBER WHEN YOU FIRST MET HER.

"YEAH.

"ME, *TOO*.

"THE EARTH MOVED."

〈A-AN EARTHQUAKE!〉

〈QUICKLY! WE HAVE TO--!〉

〈LOOK OUT!〉

SKRAAKK!

〈WHAT... ARE YOU?〉

"I WAS IN LOVE.

"I DIDN'T EVEN SAY GOOD-BYE TO HER WHEN THE X-MEN LEFT JAPAN.

"I DIDN'T WANT TO.

"WE KEPT IN TOUCH THROUGH LETTERS...A FIRST FOR ME. FOR SOME REASON, I WAS ABLE TO SAY A HELLUVA LOT MORE IN WRITIN' THAN I COULD BY TALKIN'.

"EVENTUALLY, I TOLD HER I LOVED HER.

"EVENTUALLY, SHE TOLD ME SHE LOVED ME, TOO.

"AN' THEN THE LETTERS STOPPED.

"'BOUT A MONTH LATER, MY LETTERS STARTED COMIN' *BACK.*

"*UNOPENED.*

"I GOT ON A PLANE.

"WHAT I FOUND OUT WAS THAT MARIKO HAD GOTTEN MARRIED.

"DIDN'T MATTER THAT SHE DIDN'T *LOVE* HIM, OR THAT HE *BEAT* HER-- SHE'D DONE IT OUT OF A SENSE OF *DUTY*.

"TO HER FATHER, *LORD SHINGEN*.

"SHINGEN HAD USED HER TO REPAY SOME *DEBT* HE'D RACKED UP, AN' WAS USIN' HIS FAMILY'S *NAME* TO BUILD A HIGHLY PROFITABLE *CRIMINAL EMPIRE*.

"THE *SHAME* OF IT ALL HAD NEARLY BROKEN MARIKO'S HEART.

"SO I WENT TO WORK WITH A VENGEANCE.

"SOMEBODY ELSE GOT THE HUSBAND.

"*SHINGEN*, I TOOK CARE OF *PERSONALLY*.

"BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP HIM FROM GETTIN' BETWEEN US."

THIS... CANNOT BE.

"'CAUSE O'WHAT HER FATHER'D DONE, AN' THE DEALS HE'D MADE, MARIKO'S FAMILY--THE ***CLAN YASHIDA***--HAD BECOME BOUND TO THE ***JAPANESE UNDERWORLD.*** UNTIL THOSE BONDS WERE ***BROKEN...***"

THERE WILL BE NO WEDDING.

"AS MATRIARCH OF HER FAMILY, THE TASK O' BREAKIN' THE CLAN FREE OF ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THE *YAKUZA* FELL UPON ***HER...***

"...AN' ***HER,*** ***ALONE.***"

IF I AM TO REMAIN TRUE TO MY SENSE OF HONOR, I MUST UNDERTAKE THIS TASK MYSELF.

IF YOU LOVE ME--MORE IMPORTANTLY, IF YOU ***RESPECT*** ME--YOU WILL LET ME DO SO.

"THERE WAS NOTHIN' I COULD DO...BUT I COULDN'T JUST STAND BY AN' DO NOTHIN'.

"SO I LEFT."

AND YOU WISH YOU HAD NOT?

EVERY DAY AN' EVERY NIGHT.

BUT MARIKO *ASKED* THAT YOU--

SHE ASKED ME TO LET HER REGAIN HER FAMILY'S HONOR ON *HER* TERMS RATHER'N *MINE.*

AN' I COULDN'T HANDLE THAT.

SELFISHNESS, KURT.

THAT'S WHY I LEFT.

"IT'S THE SAME REASON I CAME *BACK,* YEARS LATER.

"UNINVITED."

LOGAN-SAN?!

IT'S THE SAME REASON I KILLED HER.

THIS...IS WHAT YOU CAME TO ME TO CONFESS?

YES.

IF YOU'LL STILL HEAR IT.

OF COURSE I WILL.

FOR YEARS, MARIKO HAD BEEN TRYIN' TO DIVEST HER FAMILY'S HOLDINGS IN THE JAPANESE UNDERWORLD.

"SHE REFUSED TO *GO TO WAR* WITH THE YAKUZA FOR HER FAMILY'S FREEDOM, 'CAUSE THAT'D ONLY LEAD TO MORE *BLOODSHED*. INSTEAD, SHE USED *POLITICAL* MEANS.

"IT WASN'T GETTIN' HER *ANYWHERE*...

"...UNTIL *MATSUO TSURAYABA* OF THE *HAND* FINALLY CAME TO THE TABLE WITH AN *OFFER*.

"AS A MEANS O' LEVELIN' THE PLAYING FIELD, *THE HAND* WOULD USE ITS RESOURCES TO BREAK CLAN YASHIDA FREE OF ITS OBLIGATIONS TO THE *YAKUZA*. IT WAS A RISKY DEAL...

"...BUT ONE THAT MARIKO WAS WILLIN' TO MAKE 'CAUSE IT MEANT SHE COULD FINALLY BE WITH *ME*.

"BUT THERE WAS A PRICE TO BE PAID.

"IN BLOOD."

HE WANTS ONE OF YOUR FINGERS.

HE SAID IT WAS A CEREMONIAL GESTURE, BUT I KNEW BETTER.

I'D TAKEN SOMETHIN' FROM TSURAYABA...

"AND HE WANTED TO...*GET EVEN?*"

"HE WANTED TO GET MORE'N *EVEN*...HE WANTED *REVENGE*.

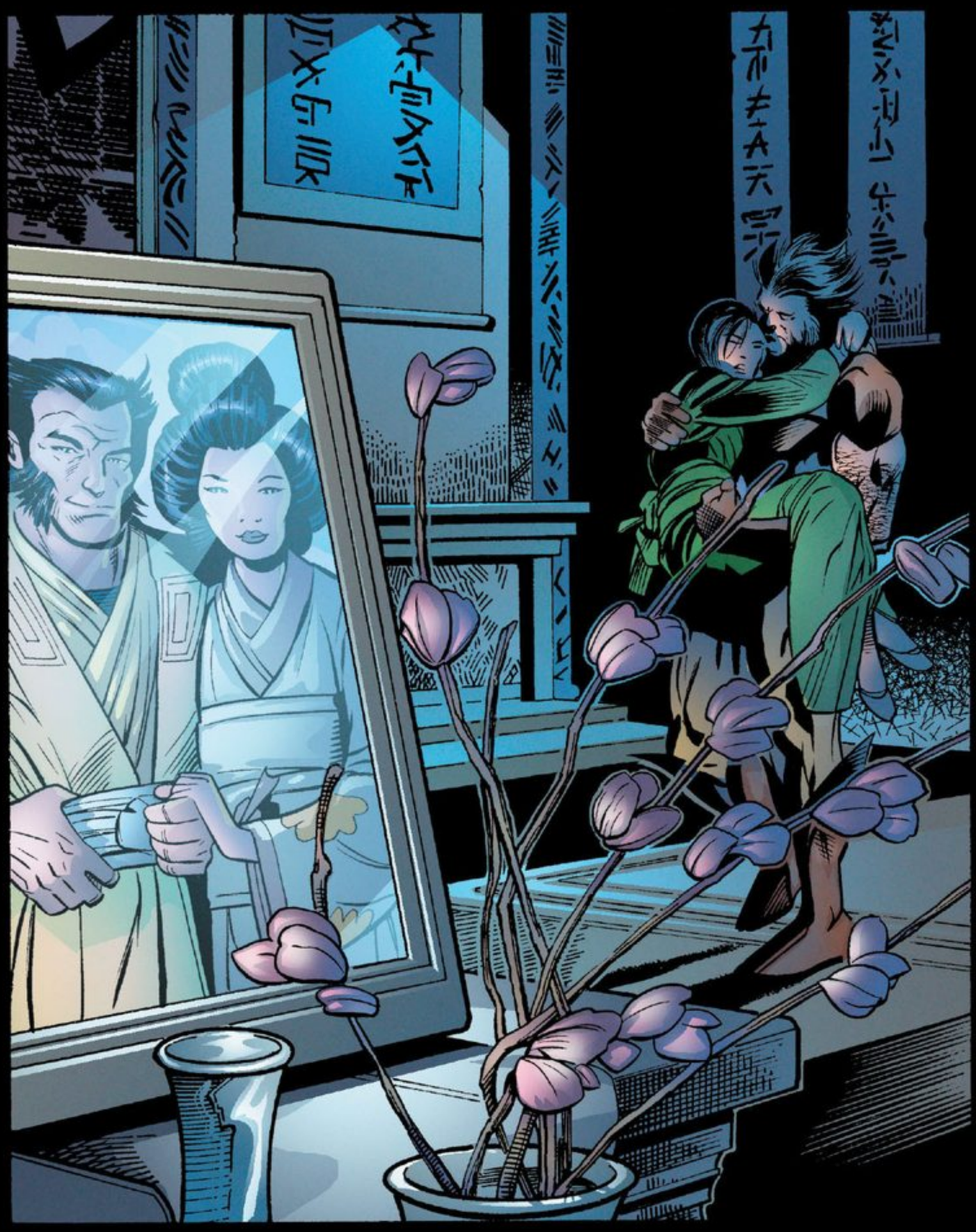
"THE BLADE WAS POISONED.

"BLOWFISH TOXIN.

"QUICK. PAINFUL.

"I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO."

(TAKE ME...TO THE CHAPEL...)



〈WHAT ARE YOU... ASKING OF ME?〉

ALL THE WOMEN I'VE EVER LOVED HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM ME. AN' I'VE BEEN POWERLESS TO STOP IT. I DIDN'T WANT IT TO HAPPEN AGAIN.

THAT'S WHY I KILLED HER.

LOGAN, WHAT YOU DID WAS NOT *MURDER*, IT WAS *MERCY! SHE HAD BEEN POISONED--!*

I COULD'A SAVED 'ER. *SOMEHOW.*

I'VE SAVED OTHERS FROM WORSE *COUNTLESS* TIMES.

MY FRIEND, YOU CAN'T--

DAMMIT, KURT! YOU SAID YOU'D LISTEN TO ME, SO *LISTEN!*

I DIDN'T DO IT FOR *HER!*

I DID IT FOR *ME.*

I DID IT SO THAT OUR LOVE WOULD LAST FOREVER.

SO THAT...I'D NEVER HAVE TO WATCH *IT* DIE.

HAS IT OCCURRED TO YOU THAT SHE MAY HAVE FELT THE SAME WAY?

...WHAT?

FORGIVE ME FOR BEING ***BLUNT***, LOGAN, BUT...SHE WAS GOING TO DIE ***ANYWAY.***

BE IT FROM ***POISON***, OLD AGE OR ANY ***NUMBER*** OF REASONS.

ALL OF WHICH ***YOU ARE IMMUNE TO.***

I GET WHAT YER ***SAYIN'***, BUT...THAT AIN'T IT.

I WAS LOOKIN' INTO HER EYES WHEN I DID IT, KURT.

"SHE DIDN'T WANNA DIE."

I DON'T THINK YOU *ARE* "GETTING IT," MY FRIEND...

I GOTTA GO.

SHE DIED ON *HER* TERMS RATHER THAN *YOURS.*

AND *YOU* CANNOT HANDLE THAT.

THANKS FOR LISTENIN'.

SO NOW, YOU ARE *LEAVING?*

YEAH.

BAMF

NOT WITHOUT SAYING *GOODBYE*, YOU'RE NOT.

GOODBYE, KURT.

GOODBYE, LOGAN.

"AND GOOD LUCK."

Y'KNOW WHAT, KURT? A LITTLE LUCK WOULDN'T HURT, CONSIDERIN' WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO.

IT'S TIME.

YOU READY?

YOU'RE IN LUCK.

AN' WHO I'M BRINGIN' *WITH* ME.

MY SCHEDULE *JUST OPENED UP.*

TO BE CONTINUED IN DARK WOLVERINE #85 ON SALE 4/21!

NEXT